DR. KARAN SINGH: Sir, it is now realised that what we need in this country is a second Green Revolution. But I would like the hon. Minister to let us know whether special attention will be paid to horticulture and floriculture. Our capacity for horticulture is so great that we can improve vastly the living standards of people living in the mountain areas particularly. In floriculture also, we can export orchids, we can export roses and other flowers. I believe this area has not received adequate attention. Will the hon. Minister assure us that in the new programmes, he will give top priority to horticulture and floriculture?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: I entirely agree with hon. Member. It was true that enough steps had not been taken for development of horticulture in our country. But, last year, we gave approval to a new programme known as the 'Horticulture Mission'. An amount of Rs.2,300 crores has been provided for this particular programme and, practically, each and every State has been covered by this 'Horticulture Mission'. There is a separate programme for the North-East, Jammu and Kashmir and Uttaranchal in the area of horticulture. We provide up to 60 per cent subsidy to the farmers in the horticulture sector. I must say that there is tremendous response from various States.

Regarding floriculture, special programmes have been taken up for cultivation of green-house and normal crops.

M.S. Swaminathan Committee

*247. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Committee headed by the scientist Prof. M.S. Swaminathan has been set up to recommend steps to be taken along the Indian coastline in view of the Tsunami disaster last year;

(b) whether it is a proposed to draw a vulnerability line along the coast and amend the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) along this proposed line;

(c) whether it is proposed that new construction is to be allowed only beyond 1500 mts. from the coast; and

(d) whether Government have taken into account its impact on beach tourism and hotel locations if construction is banned upto one and a half kms. from the shore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The Central Government constituted an Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. M.S. Swaminathan in July, 2004 to review the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991, in the light of findings and recommendations of all previous Committees, judicial pronouncements, representations of various stakeholders and suggest suitable amendments, if necessary to make the regulatory framework consistent with well established scientific principles of Coastal Zone Management. During the course of its functioning, the Committee also examined the issues relating to the Tsunami, that hit the eastern coast of India in December, 2004.

(b) One of the major recommendatiosn of Prof. M.S. Swaminathan's Committee Report relates to demarcation of a vulnerability line along the coastal areas based on seven parameters namely elevation, geology, geomorphology, sea level trends, horizontal shore level displacement (erosion/accretion), tidal ranges and wave heights. The Ministry has broadly accepted the recommendations including demarcation of the vulnerability line for implementation.

(c) No, Sir. Prof. M.S. Swaminathan Committee has not made any such recommendation.

(d) Does not arise.

DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Sir, Government's reply does not clarify many of the issues that have been raised. This has not been clarified as to what is the purpose of the 'vulnerability line' that has been recommended by the M.S. Swaminathan Copmmittee and which, as the hon. Minister says in his reply, has been broadly accepted by the Government. This is my first supplementary. What is the purpose of drawing up this 'vulnerability line'?

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: Sir, I have stated in my reply that his Committee was appointed to review the existing Notification issued in 1991. The purpose of appointing the Committee was to establish scientific principles of coastal zone management. The Committee has recommended that the vulnerability line should be demarcated on seven parameters.

DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Sir, my second supplementary is followed from this reply. The reply of the hon. Minister still does not clarify as to what is the purpose of drawing the vulnerability line if it has no implication on the Coastal Regulation Zone. So, the question is, will the Coastal Regulation Zone be modified in accordance with the vulnerability line that has been proposed? And, if so, have the State Governments been consulted in the matter of drawing the vulnerability line because many State Governments have expressed concern that this will have an adverse impact on the tourism industry?

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: Sir, the purpose of drawing the vulnerability line is to define the Coastal Regulation Zone on a scientific basis. I have already stated that. As far as demarcating the vulnerability line is concerned, the Ministry has given this work to the various organisations, such as, the Survey of India, Dehradun; Earth Science Studies, Trivandrum; Space Application Centre, Admedabad; and the Department of Ocean Development, Chennai. Let the vulnerability line be decided. We have taken up four projects, and we are expecting their reports by January. Then, we will decide what is to be done.

Increase in prices of pulses

*248. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the rates of pulses are going to be high this year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have taken any remedial action to cope up with this problem?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The Wholesale Prices of Pulses as measured by the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) (Base 1993-94 = 100) have been fluctuating during the last one year. The WPI of Pulses is as follows:—